



Home Set Up Tips in the Kitchen

to reduce smells, pests and make bags last longer



Preserve life of compostable bags by storing wet organics in unlined container until collection day

Keep wet organics (all food scraps), in an unlined container. The night before your collection day, empty pail of wet organics into compostable bag containing dry organics. Placing wet organics on top of the dry organics helps to soak up any liquids and decreases the chance that bags will break. Take bagged organics out to your organics cart.



Store dry organics in a compostable bag

Dry organics include compostable paper and plastic products like paper towels, Kleenex, napkins, compostable to-go containers and more. Some residents will choose to store these items separately from their food scraps and then add them together before their collection day.



Store the wet, smelly stuff in fridge or freezer until night before collection day

Have meat scraps and bones that you don't want to sit in your cart or pail all week? Store these items in the fridge or freezer until the night before your organics collection day. Then toss them in a compostable bag and place them in your cart.



Use a vented container to help control odors

Use a container that has vents on the sides or the lid. Food waste decomposes faster and creates odors when its access to oxygen is cut off. Purchase a kitchen pail with a vented lid (with or without a carbon filter) or make one using an ice cream container or a coffee ground type container as a pail.



Make a paper cone trap to catch fruit flies

On hot humid days you might end up with fruit flies near your organics. Here's a low-cost method to catch them: Take a jar and insert bait into it. Bait should be sweet, like a piece of fruit or apple cider vinegar. Make a cone with a piece of paper leaving small gap at pointed end and place pointed side in the jar. Tape the cone to the jar. When fruit flies enter through the cone, they cannot get back out.



For more information, visit: www.minneapolismn.gov/organics





Home Set Up Tips

Collecting Organics in the Bathroom:

Most of what you generate in the bathroom are compostable items. A unique way to again save space but add organics to your bathroom is to use a binder clip to hang a plastic container inside your garbage can. The space inside the plastic container is for your garbage items, like floss and razor blades and the larger space in the bathroom garbage is for all of the compostable items generated including Kleenex, Q-tips™, cotton balls and more.

Items that are not accepted in the organics program in your bathroom include: feminine hygiene products, diapers, facial and cleaning wipes, dental floss, plastic dental floss picks or threaders, old toothbrushes, and disposable razors.

Tip: Compostable plastic bags don't always do well with humidity in bathrooms. If you're finding that a compostable plastic bag isn't working well in your bathroom, try a paper bag or consider not using a bag in the container and dumping the organics into a bag with organics from other rooms in your house before bringing them out for collection.



Home Set-Up Tips for Large Families

Consider converting your existing garbage can into an organics bin, and buy or reuse a smaller container for garbage. Another option is to buy another container for organics to pair next to existing garbage container. This set-up works well for large families or for those who cook the majority of their meals at home.



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